Delayed release of U.G.C. Special Grant for purchase of Books at World Book Fair

1498. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the special grant which was due to the Universities and Colleges in the country as part of the new Education policy in April, 1987 was belatedly sanctioned by the University Grants Commission coinciding with the World Book Fair with advice to utilize the grant for buying books at the fair.

(b) whether it is also a fact that out-dated and unsold stock of books have been imported by the publishers for sale at the World Book Fair; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard indicating the reasons for importing out-dated and unsold stock of books?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Consequent to the adoption of the New Education Policy, the University Grants Commission held discussions with Vice-Chancellors and heads of institutions *inter-alia* for strengthening library facilities and approved special allocations in November, 1987 to the universities and colleges according to a set formula. Funds were thereafter released to the universities and colleges from December, 1987 onwards, advising them that the books and journals should be selected by Library Committees with the involvement of all Departments.

In a separate letter issued on 5th January, 1988, the Commission informed the Vice-Chancellors of the Universities/Institutions that the Eighth New Delhi World Book Fair was being organised by the National Book Trust from 5—15 February, 1988 and that it would be an appropriate forum for acquiring publication by the Universities/Colleges for their libraries.

(b) and (c) Out of approximately 660 participants at the World Book Fair, 510 were publishers and sold their own publications. The rest approximately 150, were distributors and booksellers. Some distributors and book sellers were selling imported books but it would not be correct to call them out-dated and unsold stocks.

Participation of Booksellers/Publishers in World Book Fair

1499. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of the participants in the World Book Fair held recently in New Delhi were book sellers, only selling discarded, outdated and remaindered books at a substantial discount; and

(b) if so, what percentage of the participants belonged to the publishers/distributors and the book sellers category stating the reasons for low representation of the publishers/distributors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Out of approximately 660 participants, there were 510 publishers who sold their own publications. Remaining 150 participants were distributors and booksellers. The percentage of the publishers was much higher as compared to distributors and booksellers.